व्यापारी जो बैंकों से कर्जा लेते हैं यह सेक्शन उन पर अप्लीकेबल नहीं होता और नान-परफार्मेंस एसेट के नाम पर अभी आरबीआई ने गाइड-लाइंस भी दी हैं, उनको रीहेबिलिटेट करने के लिए उनको अपार्च्युनिटी दी जा रही है कि वे कैसे वन टाइम सेटेलमेंट कर सकें। स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री को डेवलपमेंट कमिश्नर, स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज, जो आपके अंडर में है, वह पूरी इंडिया में देखता है। क्या उन्होंने ऐसा कोई प्रावधान बनाने की कोशिश की है कि जो यह तीन लाख चार हजार के करीब सिक इंडस्ट्री पड़ी हुई है, स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री की, इनको रिवाइव करने के लिए क्या इस सेक्शन को कैंसिल किया जाएगा और उनको भी वही फेसिलिटीज दी जायेगी जो एन टी सी को सेटल करने के लिए रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया ने जो प्रावधान रखे हैं क्या वैसे ही प्रावधान रखने की कोशिश होगी?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have mentioned just now that we are very concerned about this. A committee was formed by the RBI itself to look into those guidelines. They are thinking over it and will be quickly revising those guidelines. We are waiting for that information. This information should come to us within a month and we will take necessary steps after that.

Sino-Indian cultural ties

*442. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China, in an apparent attempt to improve Sino-Indian cultural ties, has invited first ever head of an Indian religious group to visit that country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to reciprocate the gesture?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government is aware that the Sankaracharya of Kanchi has been invited to visit China by a non-governmental organisation—the Chinese Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) in October 2001.

(b) Does not arise.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, as you know, I usually put questions on women, education and human rights. But a piece of news intrigued me. Why should Sankaracharya be invited to visit China, a country that is run by a political party which has no religion? Sir, in politics what is obvious...(*Interruptions*)... I am not opposing. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Sir, my supplementary is this. In politics, what is obvious is not always real. Often, there is not-so obvious motive. There had been cultural ties

between China and India for centuries. I think, from India, Kashyap Matang was the first monk to visit China in the First Century A.D. And, monks from China started coming to India from the Fifth Century onwards. But they came for spreading Buddhism and scholarly research. My specific question is: What is the Government's perception of the invitation, particularly, because Sankaracharya is going to meet Li Peng and Zu Rong Ji?

My second supplementary is: What is this CAIFC? I would like to know something more about it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the Government, as you know, has no role to play in visits by leaders of one religious persuasion or other, and we intend to play no role. This is a visit undertaken by the Sankaracharya of Kanchi, at the invitation of the Chinese Association for International Friendly Contact. Now, the hon. Member wanted to know as to what is CAIFC. It is 'Chinese Association for International Friendly Contact.' It is a body founded in 1984. It has, at present, thirty local associations within the People's Republic of China. It is really a people-to-people organisation. Its council is composed of retired and also some serving senior Government officials, diplomats and scholars. It maintains close and extensive contacts with the Government agencies in the peoples' Republics. You have said that he is going to meet Li Peng and Zu Rong Ji. We have no authentic information in that regard. But Chinese leaders have been meeting the foreign guests who have been invited by the CAIFC. And, the CAIFC has friendly relations with both Governmental and non-Governmental organisations in over sixty countries/regions of the world. On an average, it receives, approximately, 100 foreign delegations in the field of culture, arts, religion, education and sports. it also sends out about thirty delegations every years. I do not know whether the hon. Member is really interested in knowing more information on this. I am quite ready to share. The hon. Member has asked as to why the Government of China has invited him and is it because the Government of China is political. The hon. Member knows that most Governments are political and they continue to do things.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सभापति जी, चीन भारत का पड़ोसी देश है और भूगोल की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार हमें अपने संबंध अच्छे करने हैं। इसमें जहां सरकार की भूमिका होती है वहां संस्कार, संस्कृति और व्यक्ति से व्यक्ति के बीच जो संबंध बनते हैं, उसकी विशेष भूमिका होती है। चीन और भारत के बीच सांस्कृतिक समन्वय हज़ारों वर्षों से रहा है। बौद्ध धर्म ने इसमें अपनी भूमिका अदा की है। मेरा सवाल माननीय मंत्री जी से यह है कि क्या भारत चीन के साथ सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान आगे बढ़े, इस दिशा में कोई सार्थक प्रयास करने का विचार है?

श्री जसवंत सिंह: जी हां। बहुत संक्षेप में उत्तर यह है कि भारत और चीन के सांस्कृतिक संबंध आज के नहीं हैं, शताब्दियों पुराने हैं और यह रहने चाहिये, बढ़ने चाहिये। यह सरकार का भी मत है और चीन की सरकार का भी मत है और दोनों सरकारें इस ओर प्रयत्नशील हैं।

SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had occasion to meet Shankaracharya when I learnt that he was invited to China. You all will agree with me on the point that Indian culture is found everywhere, whether you visit Korea; whether you visit Indonesia or whether you visit Malaysia. And, it is high time our culture spread to other countries. Sankaracharya is a religious head of one Hindu group, ulemas and other priests should visit more often those countries where we are being misunderstood. Therefore, such cultural exchanges should be encouraged. The Government should not shy away from it. As early as possible, he should visit China. We have to further develop our relationship with China. That is why, I told Sankaracharya that we all want him to do some service for the country. We are known to each other for a long time. I think, the Government should not be hesitant about promoting such visits.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the Government has no hesitation in this regard. The hon. Member's suggestion to promote such visits with People's Republic of China—where we really have improved—is well taken. The cultural strategy of India has always existed and continues to exist and it is a commitment which India continues to pursue. As the hon. Member knows, this is in recognition of that. A separate body called the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, under the vice-presidentship of the Hon. Chairman, has already been functioning. The sole purpose of this body is to spread the Indian culture all over the world. With regard to the point as to why the Government does not encourage such things, I would like to say that Sankaracharya had called on the Prime Minister to inquire whether the Government had any objection to his accepting China's invitation. The Prime Minister conveyed that the Government had no objection to his accepting the invitation made by a non-governmental organisation of China. So, your suggestion is well made and we do take it.

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: सभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि सांस्कृतिक संबंध बढ़ें ऐसी चीन की भी इच्छा है, भारत की भी इच्छा है और इस बारे में शंकराचार्य के जाने की बात भी चल रही है, बौद्ध भिक्षुओं के आने की बात भी चल रही है। लेकिन संभवत: मंत्री जी की जानकारी में यह बात होगी कि पिछले कुछ महीनों में बौद्ध भिक्षुओं के वेष में चीनी आसूचना एजेंटों द्वारा भारत में तिब्बतियों की निरंतर घुसपैठ भारत सरकार के लिए चिंता का विषय बन गयी है। कहीं यह

सांस्कृतिक आदान -प्रदान के दुष्चक्र में आकर एक ऐसी स्थिति न बन जाए कि भारत के लिए और भी गंभीर समस्याएं उत्पन्न करे। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि ...(व्यवधान) क्या उनके संज्ञान में यह बात है कि बौद्ध भिक्षुओं के वेष में चीनी आसूचना एजेंटों द्वारा भारत में प्रवेश किया गया है?

श्री जसवंत सिंह: सभापति जी, हर बात जो अखबार में छपे वह सही हो यह आवश्यक नहीं है...(व्यवधान)

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: वे खुद छपते हैं...(व्यवधान)

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: माननीय सदस्य के अखबार में जो छपा है वह तो सही हो ही नहीं सकता ...(व्यवधान)

श्री जसवंत सिंह: परंतु जहां तक सरकार की सजगता का प्रश्न है...(व्यवधान) रहा सवाल सरकार की सजगता के प्रश्न का, चाहे एक वेष में हों चाहे अन्य किसी भेष में हो, निश्चित रूप से सरकार सभी छद्म वेषधारियों के प्रति पूर्ण रूप से सजग है।

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Sir, I wanted to know, and I think, the Minister has replied to part of my question, i.e., whether the Government of India was consulted or whether it was in the picture when this invitation was given or accepted? You have said that he had consulted the Prime Minister. The other question which I would like to put is: Will officials be accompanying this delegation whenever it visits China?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No; Sir. Being a private visit, there will be no officials of the Ministry of External Affairs that would be accompanying His Holiness, the Sankaracharya. However, should Shri Sankaracharya wish to consult any of our officials to get briefed on a certain or various aspects of life within the People's Republic of China, certainly, we will provide all facilities; and the Indian Mission in China will do likewise, as it does to any visiting Indian in Beijing.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fact that China is beginning to get interested in 'Vdanta' is, indeed, a very welcome development, and, I for one, was very pleasantly surprised when I read this Press report. Sir, the Interfaith Movement, as you know, is a movement which seeks to bring together people of different religions. There was a Summit at the United nations, just before the Summit of the political leaders, there was a Summit of spiritual and religious leaders at the United Nations, which some of us here attended. Sir, while welcoming the visit, my question

is this. The three predominant religions in China today are: the indigenous religion 'Taoism'—perhaps, the Minister had visited the Temple of the white Cloud in Beijing, which is a very remarkable temple; it is very much, in some ways, like Hinduism, with images and so on—Confucianism and Buddhism. So, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is that if reciprocal invitations are issued to religious leaders in China, would the Government be positive in accepting and encouraging such visits, on a non-official basis? Because, I do feel that apart from our political relations, if people of different religions can get together from these countries, it will go a long way in building deeper and better relations.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, it is eminently a sound proposition. Mr. Chairman, should the organisations in India analogous to the Chinese Association for International Friendly contact choose to invite eminent citizens of the People's Republic of China of one persuasion or the other, of one faith or the other, certainly, the Government would welcome such developments because the Government remains committed to enhancing people-to-people contact between the two countries; and people-to-people contact is inherent in contacts between people of different faiths.

VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Sir, the relationship between China and India is very old. In 1995, when I visited China, along with the head of the Buddhist order Sanghnayak, the then India's Ambassador in China, Mr. Nambiar, had requested me to persuade the Government of India to provide information on 10 points. Sir, it is because, the Chinese Government especially, the Buddhist Association of China, had requested the Government of India to provide information on 10 points. One is about the Panchayat attended by 'Huen-Tsang' at Triveni in Allahabad. This is my first question. Sir, they have also requested for pilgrimage visa to visit India, and not tourist visa, because the Chinese Buddhists say, 'We want to visit India not as tourists, but as pilgrims, to pay our homage to our Master.' Sir, the other question is, in 1957, the Chinese Government had given a good amount to Government of India to construct the Huen-Tsang memorial at Nalanda, Bihar. Now, 40 years have passed. The memorial has not yet been declared open for strengthening the cultural ties between China and India. It is just lying in Nalanda, as a desert. When will the Government declare it open?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has put a number of questions.

VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Huen-Tsang visited Allahabad, Triveni. During the Harsha Vardhana period, he had a panchayat there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I think, this is more a suggestion than a question. it eminently sounds like a suggestion. The hon. Member wanted to know whether there will be a proper memorial to a great traveller and writer, Huen-Tsang at Nalanda. Certainly, the Government will examine it positively. ...(*Interruptions*)... Certainly, the Government will examine the proposal, the concerned Ministry will do so.

VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: It is almost constructed. But why did you not declare it open?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So far as the other part of the hon. member's question about promoting Buddhist tourism pilgrimage is concerned, there are two separate aspects of it. One is the facilitation of direct air travel between the People's Republic of China and India. As the hon. Member would know, the air travel agreement of the eighties is vintage. Thereafter, it was formalised in 1997. We are now at a stage where the People's Republic of China has to move towards declaring India a preferred destination. As the hon. Member knows, unless the People's' Republic of China moves in this direction and declares a particular country as a preferred destination, its citizens would face difficulties in moving from China to that particular place. This is under examination of the two countries. So also the question of direct air services between China and India. Once these steps are taken—which hopefully taken fairly soon—I have no doubt, in my mind, that Buddhist pilgrims from other countries also would visit India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 443.

Activities conducted by NCP

*443. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main aims and objectives of National Commission on Population (NCP);

(b) the activities conducted by NCP since January, 2001;

(c) the funds allocated for the NCP during the current year; and

(d) the achievements of NCP since its inception?